

# Options for Georeferencing Historic Maps

## 1. Google Earth

- Cost: Free
- Hardware Requirements: PC/Mac
- Experience Level: Beginner
- User Experience + Accuracy: ArcGIS users report it's more cumbersome. Users are not provided with accuracy-level statistics.
- Can I digitize (i.e. trace) features? Yes
- Can I easily change the map's transparency? Yes
- Can I export my work into other software? Yes (limited)
- Best for: Quickly showing historical/hand-drawn maps on modern satellite.
- Tutorial: [Google Earth Image Overlay tutorial](#)

## 2. ArcGIS

- Cost: Free for Brandeis community
- Hardware Requirements: PC or a virtual machine on your Mac
- Experience Level: Basic ArcGIS Pro knowledge required
- User Experience + Accuracy: Users are provided with accuracy-level statistics.
- Can I digitize (i.e. trace) features? Yes
- Can I easily change the map's transparency? No. Edit the image's transparency level before importing into ArcGIS Pro.
- Can I export my work into other software? Yes
- Best for: Turning historical/hand-drawn maps into analytical geospatial data.
- Tutorial: [Georeference in ArcGIS Pro](#)